

*Mr. Baird*

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8 June 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: ☐ Personnel

SUBJECT: Planning for Evacuation and National Test Exercise (Operation Alert 1955), Scheduled for 15 June 1955

1. The Agency will participate in a Civil Defense test exercise designated as "Operation Alert 1955" scheduled on 15 June, Wednesday, at 1205 hours. This exercise will differ materially from all tests and air raid drills held in the past in that emphasis will be on evacuation rather than on taking shelter.

2. Present basic Civil Defense planning is centered around wholesale removal (by the fastest means possible) of the populace from target cities upon the occurrence of a state of alert. The private automobile is the basic factor of transportation in this type of planning. The use of shelter will be resorted to in the future only under circumstances where it becomes known that an attack is imminent without there having been any preliminary alert or advance warning of probable attack.

3. The TEST ALERT (Evacuation) SIGNAL sounded at 1205 hours will be a continuous blast on sirens and horns lasting for 5 minutes and in an actual alert indicates that evacuation of the city has been ordered. There will be no ALL CLEAR signal sounded during this exercise. Therefore, personnel will consider the exercise completed when they have reached their cars or the curb ☐ as appropriate, and will then return to their offices.

4. ☐ personnel will execute the following action at 1205, whether or not the TEST ALERT SIGNAL is heard:

- a. Secure classified materials in safe or vault.
- b. Close and lock all windows.

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- c. Drivers of cars parked in the near vicinity will assemble as follows:

AREA A: Bound for Virginia, east of Shirley Highway (Alexandria) -- in the hall in front of Rm. 10.

AREA B: Bound for Virginia, west of Shirley Highway and south of Arlington Boulevard -- in the hall in front of Rm. 9.

AREA C: Bound for Virginia, north of Arlington Boulevard -- in the hall in front of Rm. 8.

AREA D: Bound for Maryland, through NW Washington to points west of Georgia Avenue -- in the hall in front of Rm. 1A.

AREA E: Bound for Maryland, through NE Washington to points east of Georgia Avenue and west of Bladensburg Road -- in the hall in front of Rm. 1B.

AREA F: Bound for Maryland, through NE Washington to points east of Bladensburg Road -- in the hall in front of Rm. 2.

- d. Non-drivers will proceed to the area location listed in c. above according to their destinations and arrange to accompany drivers to cars. Non-drivers who cannot arrange passage will proceed to the curb of Independence Avenue nearest to  (designated as "loading area").

5. All personnel will exit from  through the main door for this exercise. In a genuine emergency, personnel would normally use the emergency exits at the ends of the main hall.

6. On receipt of this notice all personnel will telephone to the Emergency Officer  the following information: name, room number and phone extension, area (as in c. above), and the usual transportation circumstances which govern his work week.

7. In case of question, consult with the Building Emergency Officer, or alternate:

Emergency Officer --  
Alternate --

Emergency Planning Officer

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